

Servers Today, August 30, 2026

Symposium on Basic Biblical Counseling (Prov 20:5)

Speaker: DODOY SAMEON

Song Leader: CHRIS OLIVA

Invocation: MARIL P. BAYATING SR.

Intercessory Prayer: RICHARD BESTRE

Communion Text: PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11

Scripture Reading: MARCSON WALANG

Prayer for the Bread: DONNEL GONZALES

Prayer for the Cup: DANTE BADDAS

Prayer for the Giving: GIL GERON

Closing Prayer: ERNIE WAGANG

Announcement: ARNAN BAYLA

Speaker: JOJO RAMOS

Song Leader: CHRIS OLIVA

To Bring Flowers: BESTRE FAMILY

To Bring Biscuits: C/o MIDTOWN

To Bring Drinks: C/o MIDTOWN

Usher/ettes: GONZALES FAMILY

Communion: AMBER PHOELN PO

Worship Coordinator: EZRA VALDEZ | ART TACAY

How To Become a Biblical Christian

1). Admit that you are a sinner and in need of salvation, 1 John 3:4,8; Rom.3:10,23; Rom. 6:23.

2). Hear the pure New Testament gospel of Christ; Romans 1:16; Rom. 10:17.

3). Believe the gospel, Hebrews 11:6; Mark 16:16; John 8:24

4). Repent of your sins, Acts 2:38; Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30.

5). Confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, Mat. 10:32; Acts 8:37; Rom. 10:10.

6). Be baptized into Christ, Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16.

7). Remain faithful unto death, Rev. 2:10;

Servers for September 6, 2026

Resisting Spiritual Deception (1 Timothy 4:1-5)

Speaker: JOJO RAMOS

Song Leader: ARNAN BAYLA

Invocation: DODOY SAMEON.

Intercessory Prayer: NOEL ESPINOSA

Communion Text: LUKE 22:14-20

Scripture Reading: JEREMIE CRAIG LICUPA

Prayer for the Bread: PHROILANDER ABANCE

Prayer for the Cup: KHEIF WALANG

Prayer for the Giving: O'NEIL GONZALES

Closing Prayer: GREG KITMA

Announcement: ARNAN BAYLA

Afternoon Speaker: JOJO RAMOS

Song Leader: ARNAN BAYLA

To Bring Flowers: JOSEPHINE YAPIYAPEN

To Bring Biscuits: C/o MIDTOWN

To Bring Drinks: C/o MIDTOWN

Usher/ettes: RAMOS FAMILY

Communion: KANA VALDEZ

Worship Coordinator: ART TACAY | LEM GLORI

THE **MIDTOWN**

Official weekly publication of the Midtown Church.
(A Church of Christ Serving You)

INFORMER



Vol. XLII No. 35 August 30, 2026 Baguio City, Philippines

Mission & Vision

We are committed to give God glory, praise, and honor as we serve in making disciples of Christ. We envision ourselves to be a congregation of worshippers of God in spirit and in truth, and to be a living demonstration of the presence and power of our Lord Jesus Christ in a community of faith, hope, and love.

“Repentance, not insight, is the dynamic in all real change.”

READ 2 Corinthians 7:10-16

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LAST SUNDAY'S RECORD

August 23, 2026

ATTENDANCE

REGULAR WORSHIP ASSEMBLY AM & PM

SUNDAY SCHOOL

ADULTS.....187

YPEEZ.....22

CHILDREN.....37

GUESTS.....3

TOTAL.....249

PRE SCHOOL.....13

GRADES 1-25

GRADES 3—4.....9

GRADES 5-6.....7

J.H.S.....13

SHS/COL.....9

ADULT.....161

TOTAL.....210

OFFERING

AM&PM: P65,541.00

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

• NO TUESDAY CHURCH FORUM — ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2026 | LOCAL PUBLIC HOLIDAY (BAGUIO DAY)

• MEN’S QUARTERLY BREAKFAST— HOST: MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST | SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2026 | 7:30-10:30 AM | FACILITATORS: YOUNG ADULTS MINISTRY | FREE REGISTRATION

• BIBLICAL LEADERSHIP SEMINAR— ASIAN CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY, SALOMAGUE SUR, BUGALLON, PANGASINAN | AUGUST 31—SEPTEMBER 4, 2026 | OPEN TO PREACHERS, CHURCH LEADERS—WORKERS, YOUTH LEADERS, STUDENTS | 8:30 AM—4:30 PM | FREE FOOD AND LODGING || CONTACT 0917-700-6744 OR 0917—720—8891 TO SEND YOUR NAME TO RESERVE ACCOMMODATION | SPEAKER: BROTHER KIRK BROTHERS.

• WANTED: FULL-TIME INTERN EVANGELIST — PLEASE SUBMIT APPLICATION LETTER AND RESUME ADDRESSED TO THE ELDERS & DEACONS, MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

• PASIR PANJANG YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS CAMP INVITATION — SINGAPORE | DEC. 21-24, 2026

Joint YpeeZ & YAs fellowship focus on team-building

Twenty-five young men and women, along with three children, attended the JOINT YOUNG ADULTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE’S FELLOWSHIP held at MIDTOWN’S ASSEMBLY HALL on Saturday afternoon, August 22, 2026. Those who made it include Alexis Sunggay, Ira North Po, Kate Dereje, Amber Po, Aldian Po, Renz & Gracelynn Panday, Melchi Aquino, Dan-gil & Lala Geron, Chris & Kesha Oliva, Charis Bayla, Kenneth Solang, Ezra & Kana Valdez, Jizza Aquino, Sherman Bestre, Liam Salud, Haseo Walt Dalang, Sander Bestre, Joses Licdan, Dylan Salud, Lhuke Danhill Geron, and Riyu Albay. The TEAM-BUILDING session was facilitated by brother Dan-gil Geron and sister Kesha Oliva. The activities proved to be beneficial in the development of better communication skills, healthy social connections, and building essential life skills. Brother Renz Panday facilitated the devotional in which he encouraged the YOUNG ADULTS and the YOUNG PEOPLE to work together in “BRIDGING THE GAP” based on 1 Corinthians 12. He underscored that the church, functioning as a body, requires that every member has a part and a role to perform in order to make the church accomplish God’s purposes. To God be the glory and praise!Ω

Symposium on Biblical counseling today

THE EQUIPPING MINISTRY spearheads a symposium on BIBLICAL COUNSELING during the BIBLE STUDY HOUR today @ 9:30—10:30 AM. All the ADULT BIBLE CLASSES including the YOUNG ADULTS’ CLASS and the YOUNG PEOPLE’S CLASS will be suspended to give way to this special topic. Children’s Sunday School will proceed. Brother Dodoy Sameon will be serving as the RESOURCE SPEAKER as well as the SERMON SPEAKER today. The discussion will be mainly based on Proverbs 20:5 and Galatians 6:2 and other Bible passages. Brother Ernie Wagang will serve as the Moderator in the Open Forum or Question & Answer portion. To God alone be all the glory and praise! Ω

Benevolence ministry extends help to leukemia patient

Midtown recently received a solicitation letter dated July 29, 2026, from the leaders of the METROSOUTH CHURCH OF CHRIST, meeting at 2461 P. Villanueva St., Pasay City. The letter included a MEDICAL CERTIFICATE indicating that ARYANA ACELA REYES MISA, the four-year-old daughter of spouses Frederick and Jen Misa, both active members of the Metrosouth congregation, was diagnosed with a rare condition known as Acute Myeloid Leukemia with Bilateral Periorbital Chloroma. Due to the high cost of treatment and hospitalization, the family is seeking financial assistance. In loving response to this need, the Midtown congregation, through the TUESDAY CHURCH FORUM, approved ₱10,000.00 as benevolence, which was transmitted to the Misa family last week. Those who wish to extend personal benevolence may do so through brother Julius Rojo or sister Angela Ramos.

24th BB Christian ladies fellowship in Itogon

Midtown ladies are encouraged to prepare for the upcoming 24TH BAGUIO-BENGUET CHRISTIAN LADIES FELLOWSHIP, scheduled for November 30, 2026 at the ITOGON TRAINING CENTER, ALEJO M. PACALSO MEMORIAL NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, Bua, Tuding, Itogon, Benguet. The fellowship will be hosted by the Ambiong, Antamok, Daclan, Lamut, and Tocmo congregations. Ladies 13 years old and above are required to pay a ₱250.00 registration fee on or before October 31, 2026. For inquiries, please contact Sister Chehran Mae Millan at 0949-426-6892. To God be all the glory!

BIBLICAL COUNSELING: DRAWING OUT THE HEART

“Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water; but a man of understanding will draw it out.” — Proverbs 20:5

A person's heart is not always easy to understand. We may see someone's words, actions, or reactions, but beneath them may be fears, wounds, disappointments, temptations, wrong beliefs, or struggles that others cannot immediately see. This is why biblical counseling is important in the life of the church. Proverbs 20:5 gives us a beautiful picture: the heart is like deep water, and wise counsel helps draw out what is hidden beneath the surface.

1. BIBLICAL COUNSELING HELPS US UNDERSTAND THE HEART

People often reveal only what they are comfortable sharing. A person may say, “I'm fine,” while quietly struggling with anger, discouragement, marital problems, temptation, guilt, or spiritual weakness. Biblical counseling does not merely ask, “What happened?” It seeks to understand what is happening in the heart. Jesus taught: “For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.”— Matthew 12:34. Our words and actions often reveal what is happening within us. A wise counselor therefore listens patiently rather than rushing to judgment. Proverbs 18:13 says: “He who answers a matter before he hears it, it is folly and shame to him.” Biblical counseling begins with listening. Before we try to correct someone, we should seek to understand them.

2. BIBLICAL COUNSELING BRINGS GOD'S WORD TO LIFE

Biblical counseling is more than giving personal opinions or telling people what we think they should do. Its foundation is the Word of God. “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” — 2 Timothy 3:16. People need more than human wisdom. They need God's truth. When someone is discouraged, Scripture teaches hope. When someone is guilty, Scripture teaches repentance and forgiveness. When someone is confused, Scripture provides direction. When someone is angry, Scripture teaches self-control and forgiveness. When someone is struggling with sin, Scripture calls for repentance and transformation. The counselor's task is not to replace God's Word with his own wisdom but to help people see their lives through the truth of Scripture.

3. BIBLICAL COUNSELING HELPS RESTORE STRUGGLING BRETHREN

Church members will face difficulties. Even faithful Christians can become discouraged, confused, tempted, or become spiritually weak. Paul instructed: “Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness.” — Galatians 6:1. Notice the word restore. Biblical counseling should not be about embarrassing people or exposing their weaknesses. It should be about helping them return to spiritual health and fellowship with God. Sometimes a brother does not need condemnation first. He needs someone willing to sit with him, listen to him, pray with him, open the Scriptures with him, and patiently help him find his way back.

4. BIBLICAL COUNSELING STRENGTHENS CHURCH RELATIONSHIPS

A healthy congregation is not merely a group of people who worship together. It is a spiritual family that cares for one another. Paul says: “Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” — Galatians 6:2. Biblical counseling gives practical expression to this command. When brethren learn to listen, encourage, correct, forgive, and pray for one another, the church becomes a safer and stronger spiritual family. It also helps prevent small problems from becoming major problems. A misunderstanding that is wisely addressed can be resolved before it becomes bitterness. A marriage problem that receives godly guidance can be addressed before the relationship collapses. A young Christian who is struggling can receive encouragement before giving up. A member struggling with sin can be lovingly restored before drifting farther from God. Good counsel can prevent spiritual wounds from becoming spiritual disasters.

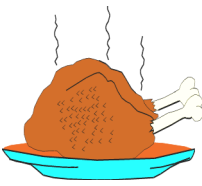
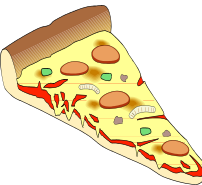
5. BIBLICAL COUNSELING DEVELOPS MATURE CHRISTIANS

The goal is not to make people dependent upon the counselor. The goal is to help Christians

Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, “I find no pleasure in them...” Ecclesiastes 12:1

September Celebrators

- 01 - Micah Jane T. Banatao
02 - Elpidio Mariano
03 - Katrina B. Oliva
05 - Edgar Encillo
06 - Josephine W. Selmo
07 - Jemiel S. Reyes
08 - Michael A. Yang
08 - Helen Lamaria—Gonzales
09 - Ellen B. Bugnay
09 - Andrea Yang
10 - Alma C. Reyes
11 - Ricardo A. Bondoc III
11 - Mahaysha Kitma—Ramos
11 - Julieann Terry P. Badecao
13 - Alton Mark D. Bayla
13 - Kristine B. Sameon
13 - Sonia Castillo Abance
14 - Abraham Insas
15 - Sixto B. Aqas
15 - Brent Carl W. Anonas
16 - Jeremiah Gawe
16 - Hannah B. Ignacio
17 - Ricardo R. Bondoc Jr.
17 - Jhovrick Baban
17 - Eren Colcol
18 - Arturo Arambulo
18 - Leemar P. Simon
19 - Kristina Alcantara-Gawe
20 - Faith A. Bayating
20 - Emelda G. Bugtong
20 - Failyn Campoas
21 - Mark Anthony Wagang
21 - Joyce A. Kitma
23 - Virgie D. Baldo
24 - Jonathan A. Ramos
24 - Jerry Martin
24 - Kathryn Booc
26 - Nathaniel B. Ramos
26 - Celia A. Cirilo
26 - Thea Marie B. Austria
26 - Lawrence B. Austria
27 - Rommel P. Nierves
27 - Aricka G. Basto—Gonzales
28 - Dan-Gil Geron
28 - Sam Rouelle Quezada
29 - Nainer P. Nawew
30 - Glen M. Gawe
30 - Zelfa Baoid



Please notify the M.I. Staff if your name should have been included in this list. Thank You.

become increasingly dependent upon God and His Word. Paul describes the purpose of Christian teaching as bringing believers toward maturity: “That we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.”— Colossians 1:28. Mature Christians eventually become counselors themselves. Paul told the Romans: “You also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.” — Romans 15:14. This means biblical counseling is not merely the responsibility of preachers. Every spiritually mature Christian can encourage, admonish, and help others.

APPLICATION & CHALLENGE

Proverbs 20:5 challenges us to become a congregation that does not merely see people's problems but cares enough to help them uncover and address the deeper issues of the heart. We need: Preachers who counsel from God's Word; Elders who know and care for the flock; Mature Christians who mentor younger believers; Husbands and wives who seek godly counsel; Parents who listen to their children; Young people who feel safe asking for spiritual guidance; Brethren who are willing to listen before they judge. The Midtown church should be a place where people can say, “I am struggling,” without immediately feeling rejected—and where they can receive both truth and grace.

A FINAL THOUGHT

A wise person does not force the water out of a deep well. He patiently draws it out. Likewise, biblical counseling requires patience, compassion, wisdom, confidentiality, courage, prayer, and faithfulness to God's Word.

There may be things hidden deep within a person's heart that only careful listening can uncover. But when those things are brought into the light of God's Word, healing, repentance, wisdom, and spiritual growth can begin. May the Lord God help us become a congregation where hearts are heard, burdens are shared, sinners are restored, the discouraged are encouraged, and every counsel points people back to Christ and His Word.Q

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP ASSEMBLY

Singing & Prayers
LORD'S SUPPER
and OFFERING
9:00—9:30

Prayers
&
BIBLE STUDY
9:35—10:25

Singing, Prayers
&
MESSAGE
10:30—11:10

Greet-
ings
&
AN-

MIDWEEK DEVOTIONALS

6:00-8:00 PM

SUNDAY PM ASSEMBLY

•Singing & Prayers & MESSAGE: 5:30—6:15
•LORD'S SUPPER & GIVING: 6:15—6:30
•Greetings & ANNOUNCEMENTS: 6:30—6:40

MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

Top Floor Marlett's Bldg.
KM 4 MARCOS HIGHWAY, BAGUIO CITY, PHILS.
e-mail - midtownphc@yahoocom
Midtown website: www.midtownchurchbaguio.org

Editorial Staff & Ministers:

Arnan A. Bayla | Phone: 0918-698-6470
Ezra V. Valdez | Phone: 0977-160-8271
Angela Ramos | Phone: 0995-463-3686
ELDERS: Maril P. Bayating Sr., Jonathan A. Ramos,
Santiago B. Sameon II, Ernesto B. Wagang
DEACONS: Gregory C. Kitma, Felix L. Olidan Jr.